

that of a family, must stand according to its first spelling, however erroneous. Should it ever come into general favor it would lead to some strange results.

The International Code alone must write the "finis" to a discussion of this sort.

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF PYRAMIDULA RUPESTRIS IN MAINE.

BY EDWARD S. MORSE.

Forty years ago while collecting land shells alongside the road in Riley, Maine, 17 miles north of Bethel, I found two specimens of a small *Helix*, which at the time I mistook for a variety of *Planogyra astericus*, being devoid of the elevated rings following the lines of growth; it was apparently the same size, form and color of *P. astericus*. Instead of being found in an alder swamp in wet ground, a common habitat of *P. astericus*, it was found in a hard-wood growth on the side of a hill associated with *S. labyrinthica*, *S. arborea*, *S. exigua* and other common species. Under the microscope I found the proportions of the shell different, as the accompanying drawings will show. Fig. 1 is the new form; fig. 2 is *P. astericus* drawn on the same scale. Realizing that the shell was new to this country, if not a new species, and not deeming it prudent to describe a new species from two specimens,

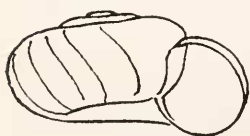


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

I visited the region again in 1891 in company with Major John M. Gould, who was with me the first time. We searched the woods in vain for a specimen of the shell. In August of this year Major Gould again visited the place but could not find the shell. A recent study of European species leads me to regard this *nova* as the old *Helix rupestris* of Draparnaud,

now *Pyramidula*. In Taylor's superb monograph of the land and fresh-water shells of the British Isles the author says of *P. rupestris*: "This species displays a great difference in form, ranging from an almost planorbular spire to a greatly elevated form with almost dislocated whorls, which has its metropolis in the isles of the Aegean Sea." Mr. Taylor figures a depressed form as var. *umbilicata* and says this form is more prevalent in the north of Europe. The spire becomes more elevated as the southern range increases. Fig. 3 represents a specimen of *Pyramidula rupestris* from England. While showing slight differences, the Maine specimens must be regarded the same. If it turns out to be an established variety I would like to dedicate it to Mr. Olaf O. Nylander, who has done such excellent work in studying and collecting the land and fresh-water shells of northern Maine. It will thus stand *Pyramidula rupestris* var. *nylanderi*.

NOTES ON MARINE MOLLUSCA ABOUT NEW YORK CITY.

BY ARTHUR JACOT.

Due to the unusually severe storms of the past winter the beaches about New York City were of special interest to the conchologist. On the one hand, bungalows, hotels, etc., were swept into the ocean bodily, while on the other, great quantities of shells were strewn along the shores.

At Rockaway Beach from the hospital (beyond the Park) to Edgmeer, a distance of four miles, there was an almost continuous rift of "skimmers" (*Spisula solidissima*) along the extreme high-tide line, which averaged two feet deep by ten feet wide. At some places these clams were piled up three to four feet deep, at other places they formed a double rift, while at still others (besides the rift at highest tide line) they were strewn as a thick carpet over that part of the beach laid bare at low tide. Counting 50 individuals per square foot, we estimated there were at least 5,000,000 per linear mile. It will be interesting to notice the abundance of this